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Daily Highlights

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F R I D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

+ Mozambicans continue to vote in large numbers after RENAMO decides to participate fully in national elections; voting period extended to Saturday.

+ Angolan Government and UNITA ready to initial peace agreement in Lusaka by end of month.

+ Secretary-General, in Bucharest, has meetings with Romanian President and Prime Minister; expresses gratitude for Romania's contribution to work of United Nations.

+ General Assembly President, in address to First Committee, sees progress towards disarmament, despite heavy toll of lives taken by conventional weapons.

+ As General Assembly discusses Secretary-General's report on work of Organization, speakers stress need to give peace and development efforts equal priority.

+ Central America is committed to strengthening political institutions by peaceful and democratic means, Secretary-General says; international community should strengthen support for region.

+ United Nations Human Rights Mission in Guatemala, meeting with URNG leaders in Mexico, says it can soon begin to carry out its mandate.

+ DPI should redress imbalances in media coverage of peace-keeping operations, India tells Fourth Committee; Benin says Daily Highlights and briefings summaries should be available in French.

+ China says Taiwan question is purely internal affair and should not have been raised by any State in General Assembly general debate.

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The President of the Mozambique National Resistance Movement (RENAMO), Afonso Dhlakama, has reversed his decision to withdraw from the country's elections, and voting proceeded very successfully today, according to a United Nations spokesman. He noted that the Presidents of South Africa and Zimbabwe

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For information media—not an official record

had assisted in resolving the situation. The voting period has been extended by one day to Saturday to allow a high turnout and the resolution of difficulties before the polls close. More than half of the registered electorate voted yesterday.

Meanwhile, the Supervision and Monitoring Commission (CSC) has noted with concern the list of alleged irregularities submitted by RENAMO and certain other opposition parties on Wednesday. It undertook to make every effort to ensure that those complaints were fully investigated, and, where possible, resolved before the completion of voting.

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The elements are in place for the initialling of an Angolan peace agreement in Lusaka by the end of the month, a United Nations spokesman announced today. At a meeting with Special Representative Alioune Blondin Beye in Huambo yesterday, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) indicated that it was ready to initial an agreement on Monday; a Government delegation has already been cleared to do so.

The Security Council yesterday extended the mandate of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II) until 8 December, and restored the Mission's strength to its previous level in order to consolidate the implementation of the peace agreement in its initial and most critical stages. It said the additional personnel would be deployed when the parties had initialled a peace agreement and an effective cease-fire was in place.

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On the second day of his official visit to Romania, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met this afternoon with President Ion Iliescu. They discussed areas of crisis, particularly the former Yugoslavia, and the President stressed that the United Nations had an essential role to play in the restructuring of international relations. He also called for international efforts to promote economic growth through a partnership for development, noting the widening gap between rich and poor countries. The Secretary-General said the United Nations needed Romania's continued support. He was expected to meet later with Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu.

This morning, the Secretary-General met with Foreign Minister Teodor Melescanu, and expressed gratitude for Romania's contribution to the work of the Organization. They reviewed the international situation, paying particular attention to the effect on Romania of the economic embargo against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

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The world is now in a position to reach the goal of complete disarmament through bilateral and multilateral agreements untrammelled by cold war considerations, General Assembly President Amara Essy (Côte d'Ivoire) said today. However, he added that forces repressed during the cold war had been

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unleashed across the planet, and that hundreds of thousands of people had been killed by conventional weaponry. The twin goals of disarmament and development were therefore as crucial now as when the Charter was drawn up. He made those comments to the First Committee (Disarmament and International Security) as it observed Disarmament Week, which began on United Nations day, 24 October.

Next year's conference on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) presented the Committee with an opportunity to safeguard one of the pillars of international peace and security, he continued. At the same time, the proliferation of conventional weapons had serious repercussions for peace and security. The United Nations Register of Conventional Arms was one way to promote the confidence needed to curb proliferation.

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The United Nations must give equal priority and treatment to peace and development, India's Minister of State for External Affairs said yesterday. It needed to find a collective middle way consistent with the need for rapid economic development and sustained peace, which reflected individual traditions, he told the General Assembly as it discussed the Secretary-General's report on the work of the Organization.

The representative of Sri Lanka said the report aimed to shift the focus away from post-cold-war political priorities to development concerns. The United Nations was of great relevance to smaller developing countries, which were vulnerable and relied heavily on it to preserve their sovereignty and to protect them from external intervention.

Algeria's representative said the United Nations should be the focal point of international development efforts. The Organization's short-comings were due to the increasing number and complexity of demands made on it. He added that restructuring, including reform of the Security Council, had thus entered a crucial stage.

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Central America has demonstrated its interest in strengthening political institutions by peaceful and democratic means, according to the Secretary-General. In a report to the General Assembly issued today, he noted that five countries in the region had held elections this year, in collaboration with the United Nations and the international community.

In El Salvador, the commitments made by the parties in the 1992 Peace Accords were being successfully implemented, he said, expressing hope that the country's institutions would soon take control of their political destiny. Meanwhile, international dialogue with Nicaraguan institutions was being strengthened. An encouraging peace process was underway in Guatemala; Several agreements had been signed and the General Assembly had established the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA). In his report, the Secretary-General urged the international community to

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strengthen its support for Central America. He stressed his readiness to continue to play an active role in promoting peace, freedom, democracy and development there.

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The Chief of the advance technical team of the United Nations Human Rights Verification Mission in Guatemala (MINUGUA), Fernando Castañón, met in Mexico on Wednesday with the leaders of the Unidad Revolucionaría Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG). The meeting was also attended by the Director of the special United Nations unit for the peace process in Guatemala, Gilberto Schlitter.

Among the matters discussed were procedures for verifying implementation of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights with regard to commitments made by the URNG; measures taken by the URNG to end the suffering of the civilian population; and the security of MINUGUA observers in the context of the internal armed conflict. Mr. Castañón said that as a result of the support received so far, the Mission could soon be officially installed and begin to carry out its mandate.

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The Department of Public Information (DPI) should provide precise information on the complexities of peace-keeping operations to counter the unbalanced view taken by the dominant media, the representative of India said today. The international media were dominated by giants with little interest economic and social development, he continued, and the Department should redress that situation. He made those comments to the Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization), as it continued its consideration of questions relating to information.

The representative of Benin said summaries of the DPI's daily briefings and its Daily Highlights should be available in both English and French, the two working languages of the United Nations. The DPI should also review the linguistic imbalance in its radio and television services, and create a televised magazine with extracts from statements made by delegations speaking in French.

Speakers welcomed the positive changes made in the DPI over the past year, while addressing areas in need of additional emphasis. The representatives of Burundi and Sri Lanka said the Department should be provided with more resources, while the representative of Egypt called for the reallocation of resources from anti-apartheid activities to address such regional issues as the New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s. The representative of South Africa paid tribute to the role played by the DPI in bringing about the recent transformation in his country.

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There is only one China -- the People's Republic of China -- and Taiwan is an inalienable part of it, according to the Chinese Permanent Representative to the United Nations. In a General Assembly document issued today, he said some States had "peddled the so-called question of Taiwan's 'representation' in the United Nations" in the Assembly's recent general debate, in disregard of the Charter and international law. They had also referred to "two Chinas" and "one country, two seats". He expressed indignation at those acts, which infringed upon China's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The question of Taiwan was purely an internal affair and no country had the right to interfere in it, the Chinese Representative stressed. He accused the Taiwan authorities of trying to win over some States by "dollar diplomacy". Those States should adhere to the Assembly's 1971 resolution which stated that the representatives of the People's Republic were the only lawful representatives of China to the United Nations.

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